

HOUSE No. 2855

By Mr. Petersen of Marblehead, petition of Douglas W. Petersen and others for legislation to direct the departments of Transitional Assistance, Public Health and Education to institute a program of pregnancy prevention. Public Health.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Douglas W. Petersen	Cory Atkins
Kathi-Anne Reinstein	Alice Hanlon Peisch
Anthony J. Verga	

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO PREGNANCY PREVENTION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The department of transitional assistance, the
2 department of public health and the department of education are
3 hereby authorized and directed to institute a program for mothers
4 who have received aid under the provisions of chapter one hun-
5 dred and eighteen as a result of having become pregnant while
6 unwed. Said program shall hire, train and prepare said mothers for
7 a two year pilot pregnancy prevention program for girls and/or
8 boys in participating public schools and/or programs directed at
9 youth and young adults to educate them as to the adverse social
10 and economic consequences of being an unwed mother. Said pro-
11 gram shall be based upon principles as found in reality based
12 approaches currently utilized in the department of correction and
13 certain drug prevention and treatment programs. Such participa-
14 tion by said mothers employed by the departments will satisfy the
15 work/community service requirements as mandated by section one
16 hundred and ten of chapter five of the acts of nineteen hundred
17 and ninety-five. The department of education shall select an inde-
18 pendent research entity to evaluate the results of said pilot pro-
19 gram.

1 SECTION 2. The secretary of administration and finance or his
2 or her designee shall hire an independent research entity to con-
3 duct a study and investigation of programs and services, in the
4 commonwealth, presently available in the area of pregnancy pre-
5 vention and of the degree of coordination of such programs and
6 services. Such study will include, but not be limited to, an
7 analysis of the methodologies utilized, effectiveness of said pro-
8 grams (including benefit-cost analysis), populations served, and
9 the availability and reliability of program and/or state and munic-
10 ipal evaluation and monitoring of said programs. Programs to be
11 subject to said study shall include, but not be limited to, so-called
12 abstinence-based pregnancy prevention programs, traditional
13 counseling based programs, health education, condom distribu-
14 tion, etc. Said study will compare programs available in the com-
15 monwealth with other comparable states.

16 The secretary shall report to the general court the results of
17 such study and investigation, including recommendations for
18 improved pregnancy prevention services, to the clerks of the
19 house and senate on or before the first Wednesday in January, two
20 thousand and seven.